

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090577

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R 022055Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ATRN, APER, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN BAN ON IMPORT AUTOMOBILES

"FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QUOTE

R 120920Z MAR 74

FROM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 3069

TO SECSTATE WASHDC

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MID-JANUARY DISORDERS, GOI HAS IMPOSED VIRTUAL BAN ON IMPORTATION OF ALL PERSONAL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FOR OFFICERS ON DIPLOMATIC LIST. THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS THAT ALL US PERSONNEL, EXCEPT THOSE CERTAIN TO BE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST, BE ADVISED NOT TO PURCHASE, OR SHIP, PRIVATE VEHICLES TO INDONESIA UNTIL MATTER HAS BEEN SETTLED WITH GOI, HOPEFULLY WITHIN NEXT MONTH OR TWO. END SUMMARY.

2. RE JAKARTA DISORDERS OF JANUARY, ONE MAJOR POINT OF IRRITATION AMONG DEMONSTRATORS WAS DISPLAY OF WEALTH, PARTICULARLY AUTOMOBILES, AND PARTICULARLY OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURE. AS RESULT, ONE PART OF GOI RESPONSE HAS BEEN BAN ON IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOBILES. ON JAN 31, MINISTER OF

TRADE ISSUED REGULATIONS RETROACTIVE TO JAN 22 BANNING IMPORTATION BUT MAKING WHAT APPEARED TO BE BLANKET  
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PAGE 02 STATE 090577

EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS AND THEIR PERSONNEL UNDER

GOI REG 8, 1957, AND GOI REG 19, 1955.

3. AFTER REFLECTION, MINTRADE ISSUED ADDITIONAL REGULATION ON FEB 9, WHICH STATED THAT QUOTE SEDANS AND SEDAN STATION WAGONS COULD BE IMPORTED FOR OFFICIALS HOLDING DIPLOMATIC STATUS ONLY END QUOTE. THIS HAS SO FAR BEEN INTERPRETED BY DIRGENCUSTOMS TO MEAN PERSONS HOLDING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. FYI THIS LEFT UNSPOKEN ANY GOI POLICY CONCERNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IGGI MISSIONS HAVE BEEN IN CONSULTATION; RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BEING ASSESSED SEPTEL. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH FORDEPT OFFICIALS ON MARCH 6 AND 8 AND DELIVERED NOTE TO FORDEPT DATED MARCH 12 SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF GOI REGULATIONS AS THEY AFFECT MISSION PERSONNEL, INCLUDING AID. FORDEP OFFICIALS AGREE PRESENT POLICY IS UNWORKABLE FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS AND ADVISE THAT HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION BEING GIVEN PROBLEM, AND THAT DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONS AND THEIR STAFFS WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE EXEMPTED FROM BAN WHEN SOLUTION WORKED OUT.

5. FONDEPT UNWILLING PREDICT WHEN THIS MAY BE DONE, HOWEVER, SINCE IT INVOLVES FINDING WAY TO COUNTERMAND FEBRUARY 9 ORDER OF TRADE MINISTER (PARA 3 ABOVE) WITHOUT MAKING HIM LOSE FACE. DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAS ALSO RAISED MATTER WITH FONMIN MALIK WHO, ACCORDING DEAN, EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS PROBLEMS BUT ASKED FOR PATIENCE WHILE SOLUTION IS NEGOTIATED WITHIN GOI. DEAN ALSO AGREED TO ASK MALIK WHETHER PRESENTATION OF AIDE-MEMOIRE BY CORPS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

6. OUR OWN HOPE IS THAT SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND WITHIN NEXT MONTH OR TWO WHICH WILL ENABLE RETURN TO PRE-JANUARY SITUATION AS FAR AS CAR IMPORTS BY MISSION PERSONNEL ARE CONCERNED.

7. WE ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO EFFECT OF MISSIONS BRINGING IN VEHICLES IN NAME OF MISSION OR AMB, BUT IN VIEW OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 090577

STRICT CONSTRUCTION POSTURE ON PART OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, BELIEVE THAT SUCH IMPORTATIONS ARE BANNED ALSO.

8. IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF NEW POLICY UPON THIS MISSION IS

THAT WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 60 PERSONS (THOSE ON DIP LIST) WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES AND SOME 200 (INCLUDING AID AND DLG OFFICERS) WHO ARE NOT. THIS

WILL POSE GRAVE MORALE PROBLEMS IF BAN UPHELD AND CONTINUED. PART IV OF BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND INDONESIA PROVIDE "SAME AS" TREATMENT WITH PERSONS OF DIPLOMATIC STATUS. EVEN IF WE GAIN THIS POINT, IT DOES NOT COVER EMB, USIS, AID STAFF PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS DOD AND LC PERSONNEL HOLDING OFFICIAL PASSPORTS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DESPITE OUR HOPE FOR SOLUTION, WE BELIEVE IT PRUDENT AND NECESSARY TO REQUEST THAT UNTIL ISSUE IS RESOLVED (A) ALL PERSONS BEING TRANSFERRED TO INDONESIA, WHO ARE NOT CERTAIN TO BE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST REFRAIN FROM PURCHASE OR SHIPMENT OF AUTOMOBILES TO INDONESIA; AND (B) THAT US DESPATCH AGENTS AND MILITARY TRANS OFFS, BE NOTIFIED SUCH SHIPMENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED UNLESS THE PERSON WILL BE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE MATTER WILL BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED IN TIME, ARRIVAL HERE OF POV NOT ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORT WILL RESULT IN EMBARRASSMENT FOR MISSION, AND PROBABLY IN RE-EXPORT OF POV.

10. ALSO, WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT INFORM EMBASSY JAKARTA ASAP OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY IMPORT OR TAX PRIVILEGES THE US ACCORDS INDONESIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON WHO DO NOT HOLD DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. NEWSOM. RUSH

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